

Sinclair Broadcasting's owners are making a grievous error by flouting broadcast law to serve their own political interests. Their decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation, not to mention a call to arms for enforcement of already existing broadcast regulations.

Sinclair is permitted to use the public airwaves free of charge, and in return for that privilege is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But Sinclair does not seem to realize that the privilege of use of our airwaves is one that can be taken away from corporations, when they demonstrate that they cannot or will not use them responsibly and hold up their end of the agreement by respecting the law.

We now have a media that is focussed exclusively on money and the interests of those few executives at the top, rather than a system which produces news on a local level and talks substantively on the issues.

Sinclair's brazen decision to flout election and broadcast law demonstrates why we need to focus on enforcing existing media regulations. That they somehow believe they will get away with this shows why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. The license renewal process should be used to remove airwave access from those companies that clearly will not use them in the public interest, regardless of the fact that they have agreed to do so. Thank you.